



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## MEETING MINUTES

### West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

August 14, 2017

7:00 PM

Rm 422

#### 1. Roll Call – 7:05 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	X	Robert Palmer	
Chris Nelson	X	Dave Mello	X
Joe Campanella	X	Vacant	
Bernie Pelletier	X		
Max DuBuisson	X		
<b>Total</b>	6		
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	James Capella, Jim Henkel, Will Taylor, Jack Wright		

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. July 10, 2017 - approved

#### 3. Communications/Administration

- a. Commission Alternate – James Capella nominee

The commissioners have nominated James Capella to fill the vacant Alternate position. Town Council must approve his nomination—their next meeting is scheduled in September.

- b. WH-CEC Yahoo Group – invitations not going through?

Catherine mentioned that it seems sometimes invite to the yahoo group end up in people's junk mail and that joining the yahoo group is awkward if you are not a yahoo email subscriber already. It was proposed that maybe we should move to the google group platform.

VOTE: It was decided that the WH-CEC yahoo group should be dissolved and contacts moved over to Google Group. Chris Nelson will set this up.

#### 4. Ongoing Business

- a. 100PercentCT Project Update

Mark Scully is starting talks with businesses in Simsbury regarding the community microgrid project. Clean Coalition/PACE is working on the application.

The Sierra Club has a [Ready for 100](#) pledge that they are circulating. This could be something that the WH-CEC and Mayor Cantor sign on to. The goal for 100% renewable energy use is in accordance with the vision of the 2017 energy plan. Mayor Cantor has already signed the Climate Mayors pledge to uphold the Paris Agreement.

Bernie and Mark are also working with Westport, CT. Westport (20,000 people) uses a little less than West Hartford on a per capita basis.

- b. Website – Content Update [www.westhartfordct.gov/cleanenergy](http://www.westhartfordct.gov/cleanenergy)

Catherine and Jack are still updating and making changes to the Clean Energy website. One of the major changes to come is a reorganization of the content split between the WHPS Clean Energy page and the Town website Clean Energy page. After Jack leaves, website content could be a “project” for commission members. Catherine has access to make changes on either site.

### c. CT Green Bank Biz Letters

Eversource has joined West Hartford and the CT Green Bank in efforts to increase participation in C-PACE. Eversource has helped provide data for the Green Bank to use to target the largest energy users for C-PACE. This data is confidential, so Eversource knows who will receive the C-PACE letter but, they cannot tell us or the Green Bank. In addition to the C-PACE recipients, Eversource will send letters to every West Hartford commercial property (excluding Town ones) to promote and offer other commercial energy saving programs.

## 5. New Business

### a. WH-CEC Officers

Catherine brought up the idea that the Commission could assign other Officer positions. Currently, Catherine and Chris serve as the Commission Co-Chairs. In particular, a Secretary position may be useful to take notes during meetings.

Chris brought up that Co-Chair positions could also change with a vote in the future.

Catherine will check the rules of the Commission regarding changing positions and creating new positions before the next meeting.

### b. Streetlight LED Retrofits

Side street LED retrofits have begun! Approximately 10-15% of streetlights have been switched over to 15 Watt LED fixtures. The lighting contractor has been working North to South, skipping roads that are being paved. Select light fixtures on streets that are designated for removal are still High Pressure Sodium (HPS). The contractor has to wait for Eversource to cut power to these poles before removing the lights. The project will be completed before snow comes.

Several arterial roads still need to be done. The group discussed the color temperature of lights going in on three busier roads, since 4000K was used in Phase 1 on main roads and Phase 2 switched to 3000K for side streets. The group discussed the pros and cons of placing 3000K or 4000K fixtures on these three roads. Engineering and Public Works will have the final say.

### c. July 31 Lightbulb Giveaway Recap (Town Hall lobby)

On July 31, the WH-CEC gave away 225 LED lightbulbs to West Hartford residents. Thank you to volunteers James Capella and Jim Henkel. Read more about the LED giveaway [here](#).

### d. Anti-Idling Signs

West Hartford has received 65 Anti-Idling signs for free from CT DEEP to be placed at the West Hartford Public Schools. Jack has worked with Bob Palmer, Director of Plant and Facilities, to identify where the signs will go in at each school. The next step is to place the signs. They will hopefully be in place before the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

### e. WH-CEC Banner

WH-CEC has a new banner, made from EcoPhab material (100% recycled polyester). The banner cost just over \$100.

### f. Aug 10 Town manager Meeting Recap

WH-CEC has a new banner, made from EcoPhab material (100% recycled polyester). The banner cost just over \$100.

### g. Energy Plan Update

The Commission discussed the progress on the Community section of the 2017 Energy Plan.

#### **Vision:**

- We discussed what phrasing to use in the vision statement—"will use," "aspires to use," "will achieve" 100% renewable energy use by 2050.

#### **Introduction:**

- 2 page intro information is a good length.

- It's good to include background information on West Hartford in case other municipalities view this plan.
- It's important to give credit to the previous plan. We can do this without necessarily repeating the Vision Statement. One way to do this is to reference the 2009 plan, place the old Vision Statement as an appendix, and then document how clean energy/town initiatives have changed between 2009 and the release of the plan.
- Add lines for comparison on stacked chart showing total West Hartford energy use. Also, define MMBtus.
- Recreate graph showing CO2e in the appendix.
- Liked the idea of including progress bars. The name "progress bars" is misleading because they do not show the baseline (and therefore progress)—will be called "status bars" instead. More up-to-date status bars can be posted on the Clean Energy website.
- Charts are good to show past progress on goals, fit well right after the goals, strategies, actions section—NOT as an appendix.

**Content:**

- Move the anti-idling action to Goal 1 (Community outreach) instead of having it in the transportation section.
- Provide clear instructions on how to purchase 100% renewable electricity from the utility—it can be confusing and overwhelming. Some energy suppliers may offer competitive pricing for renewable energy for a few months and then hike up prices to unreasonable levels. Need to somehow warn customers.

**6. Adjournment – 9:05 PM**